

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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| COUNTRY | Rumania | REPORT NO. | | 25X1A |
| SUBJECT | Poison Gas Shipment through Constanta | DATE DISTR. | 9 June 1953 | |
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. On 12 August 1952 Soviet stevedores were observed unloading the Soviet freighter ISMAIL at pier 16 in Constanta harbor. Soviet guards supervising the unloading operation were equipped with gas masks of the Soviet KIP-5 type. In addition to the masks, the guards wore gasproof cloaks, gloves and stockings. Guards on Soviet ships do not ordinarily wear gas masks or gasproof clothing.

2. [redacted] the whole job was to take 36 hours. Suddenly one of the workers became ill, others sneezed vigorously, gasped for breath, rubbed their eyes or scratched their heads. At this the watch gave an alarm, and put on their masks. Soon afterward an emergency car arrived whose crew also had gas masks and gasproof cloaks and took the affected persons away. They probably were sent to a Soviet military hospital, as they were not seen elsewhere. What occurred aboard the ship after this cannot be established, since the observer left the area at once. He remembers that the affected persons were working in the hold and were brought out of it.

3. The cases bore the designations AOX-10, XAB-2, HOB, OX, C, H, D. Rumanians who have done forced labor in Russia or worked with gas in the Rumanian Army say these are designations for Russian gas bombs.

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25X1A [redacted] Comment: See [redacted] for previous information on this poison gas shipment. [redacted] states that the stevedores were also equipped with gas masks whereas this report states that only the guards wore gas masks.

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